



STATE OF WASHINGTON

August 20, 2001

To governments and groups affected by, and interested in, Washington water policy:

We are writing to describe an effort to develop water law reform legislation in preparation for the 2002 session of the Legislature, and to ask for your participation.

In recognition of the importance of water to the state's economic and environmental health, the Governor and leaders of the Legislature have asked us to work collaboratively as a Joint Executive Legislative Water Policy Group to develop legislation for the 2002 session. We will work on legislation for four specific topics, within the context of improving our water management policies:

- (1) instream flows,
- (2) water for growing communities,
- (3) use it or lose it policies, and,
- (4) funding for water infrastructure, including storage and drinking water systems.

We will pursue agreement on legislation to be enacted during the 2002 session, with the goal to develop legislation by early December 2001. However, each caucus and the administration reserves the right to propose legislation on topics where agreement is not reached.

Our immediate task is to actively engage with other governments, and both affected and interested groups, to clearly define the specific problems, and to obtain help in identifying policy options that will secure real progress on these issues. To that end, we are sponsoring two water policy events, as follows:

<u>Date/Location</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
September 10, 2001 (Monday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm) Lacey Community Center 6729 Pacific Avenue SE	Listening Session: presentations clearly defining water problems and needs from affected and interested groups
October 23-25, 2001 Location ~ to be announced	Working Conference: presentations and discussion on specific policy issues growing out of the September 10 meeting, and potential solutions

We are seeking the participation of a wide range of governments, water interest groups, and elected officials at these events. The location of the conference will be announced soon.

Our staff is in the process of organizing both events, and will soon be issuing invitations to the September listening session. In addition to invited speakers, there will also be an opportunity for public comment. The September session will be a formal joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy and Water and the House Committee on Agriculture and Ecology, and members from both committees will be in attendance.

The October conference will be organized around invited "white papers" on the policy topics identified above; we will be sending a requested format for these papers soon. The white papers will be distributed in advance of the conference, and posted on a web page, to help attendees prepare for active participation during the conference.

We hope you will be able to participate in these events – they will have a formative influence on our work. We look forward to working with each of you on this important next step in ensuring that our water laws meet our future water management needs.

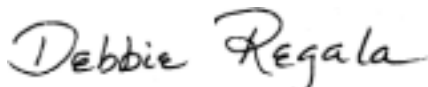
Sincerely,



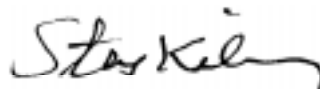
Senator Karen Fraser
Washington State Senate



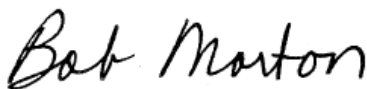
Representative Kelli Linville
Washington State House of Representatives



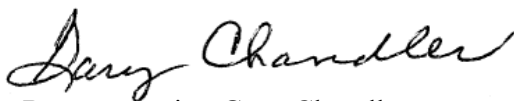
Senator Debbie Regala
Washington State Senate



Representative Steve Kirby
Washington State House of Representatives



Senator Bob Morton
Washington State Senate



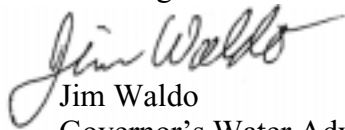
Representative Gary Chandler
Washington State House of Representatives




Senator Jim Honeyford
Washington State Senate



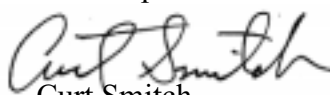
Representative Bruce Chandler
Washington State House of Representatives



Jim Waldo
Governor's Water Advisor



Tom Fitzsimmons, Director
Department of Ecology



Curt Smitch
Governor's Advisor
on Natural Resources